

Washington (Merry-Go-Round) By Drew Pearson

(The author of this column is given the widest latitude. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the Mirror.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—Beauteous Clare Boothe Luce, the U. S. Ambassador the Italians at first didn't want, has two things uppermost in her mind now that she is back in the U. S. A.

First—she wants to alert the State Department to the growing menace of communism in Italy; second—she's "dying to get some rest."

A few hours after her arrival, Mrs. Luce hurried to Washington for top-level conferences with Secretary of State Dulles and other high officials, including Dulles' brother Allen, boss of the Central Intelligence Agency.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, Ambassador Luce told Washington officials that her chief worry



AMB. CLARE BOOTHE LUCE
Worried about Reds in Italy.

about Italy is "the continuing" strength the Communists and "the apathy of the Italians" to the menace in their midst.

"The Italian people simply don't understand the true meaning of communism and what it will do to Italy," she told Dulles. "One of our chief jobs as I see it," she said, "is to get across to the Italians

what communism and Communist imperialism will actually mean to them if it ever gets the upper hand."

Agreeing with the Ambassador, one of Dulles' aides commented that the Italians look upon communism as "part of the political game" and not a ruthless, anti-religious dictatorship.

Mrs. Luce agreed and then went on to urge that the U.S. Information Agency intensify its efforts to bring home the real meaning of communism to the Italians.

DURING THE discussion, mention was made that the Communists were spending an estimated \$100,000,000 per year on propaganda in Italy while the United States spent about the same amount for the entire world.

The effectiveness of Red propaganda was illustrated by last year's elections in which the Communists, plus their cohorts, the Nenni Socialists, totaled 35 percent of the vote.

NOTE—Mrs. Luce timed her return to coincide with the traditional Christmas lull in Italian politics, but her timing was slightly off. On the day before the President threw a big luncheon in her honor, Premier Pella resigned, throwing Italy into more or less the political predicament Mrs. Luce had predicted.

Senator-Professor

SEN PAUL DOUGLAS, the University of Chicago professor who enlisted in the Marines at the age of 50 and was wounded at Okinawa, has a unique approach to politics.

Informed the other day that Clarence Randall, head of Inland Steel and a Republican, would not run against him for the Senate, Douglas remarked:

"That's too bad. He's able and sincere. He would have been a harder man to beat than some, but would have made a good senator."

The funny thing was that Douglas was not talking for quotation, he really meant it.



SEN. PAUL DOUGLAS
"We should face the danger."

THE QUAKER Senator from Illinois has now definitely decided to run for re-election himself, despite the announced intention of the Republicans to throw everything they have—including Senator McCarthy—into the State to beat him.

Their biggest problems are going to be: 1, The business slump in some parts of Illinois; and 2, The fact that Douglas was the Democrats' foremost economizer. He began to chop down the budget long before Ike, and this has won him a lot of Illinois Republican support.

Last Summer Douglas toured almost every Illinois county, found conditions in the farm areas better than in the industrial areas, where farm-machinery manufacturers around Moline, Rock Island, Chicago have been working part time.

"There's not a recession in those areas," Douglas reported. "There's a depression."

DOUGLAS, who once taught economics at Amherst, the University of Washington, and the University of Chicago, also cites figures showing that December automobile production was off 12 percent, car loadings 12 percent, mail-order business down 16 percent, steel operating rates down 36 percent, and business failures up 50 percent.

"If we are to prevent depression," says the economist-professor-senator from Illinois, "we should face the danger, not hide it pollyanna fashion as we did from 1929 to 1932."

NOTE—Gabriel Hauge, a White House expert on economic matters, differed vigorously with Senator Douglas in a recent debate. However, the President himself in answer to depression worries last week delivered a fireside promise to stave off any economic slump.

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